(b) No, Sir. The Society is running an eye hospital, ENT facilities have also been added from 1st October, 1984.

Meet of inter-caste and inter community marriages on Thalassaemia

3047. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times, of the 12th November, 1985 that inter-caste and inter-commmunity marriages can lessen the severity of a blood disease Thalassaemia; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pre-marital genetic counselling followed by avoidance of marriage among carriers is the only method to prevent this disease. Alternate method is to implement a programme of screening by ante-natal diagnosis for women at risk of having affected foetuses and use of therapeutic abortion in appropriate cases. The Indian Council of Medical Researeh has set up a Centre for the latter purpose at Bombay.

Trichy Airport as an International Airport

3048. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert the Trichy airport into an international airport;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be opened for international traffic; and

(c) what amount has been earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Ticketless Travelling on Railways

3049. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of raids conducted by the Railway authorities to detect ticketless travelling during the last two years;

(b) the number of ticketless persons arrested;

(c) the details of action taken against these persons; and

(d) whether there has been any decline or increase in the number of ticketless travellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 4.94 lakh checks were conducted during 1983-84 and 1984-85.

(b) and (c) 82.82 lakh persons were detected travelling without ticket or with improper tickets and a sum of Rs. 1638.12 lakhs was realised from them as railway dues. 4.98 lakhs persons were prosecuted out of whom 2.61 lakhs were imprisoned in default of payment.

(d) Incidence of ticketless travel is not on the increase.

C.G.H.S. Doctors

3050. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of C.G.H.S. doctors in the grade of Rs. 700—1300 and the names and qualifications of doctors who are likely to be promoted in the near future in the specialist grade of Rs. 1100—1800?